

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details, thereof; and

(c) the names of the States where these funds have been spent on tourist sites there, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Misuse of tourism by foreigner

852. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that in the name of tourism,, camps of lesbianism and homosexuality are organized by the foreigners and the local people are also invited to participate in the camps; and

(b) if so, what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI). (a) No specific complaint or report on prevalence of lesbianism or homosexuality tourism in the country has been received in the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Safety and Security of tourists is a State subject and hence, the Ministry of Tourism has advised all State Governments and Union Territories to deploy Tourist Police at important tourist centres/destinations. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

853. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists both Indian and foreign who visited the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years and what is the percentage share/increase thereof for Rajasthan;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Central Government for the development of tourism in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(c) whether any proposal for approval and sanction of funds, submitted by State Government are pending with the Centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are 3.46 million, 3.92 million and 4.43 million respectively. The estimates of domestic and foreign tourist visits in the country, as also for Rajasthan, for 2004, 2005 and 2006, along with the percentage share of Rajasthan in the country, as well as the annual growth in tourist visits to Rajasthan, are given in the following table:—

(Numbers in Million)

Year	Tourist visits to		Share of Rajasthan In All-India	Annual Growth in Rajasthan
	All States/UTs	Rajasthan		
2004	374.59	17.01	4.56%	29.09%
2005	400.41	19.92	4.97%	17.13%
2006	N.A.	24.70	N.A.	24.02%

N.A.: Not Available

(b) The Central Financial Assistance sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to the State Government for development of tourism in Rajasthan during 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 is as under—

2003-04		Rs. 14.11 crore
2004-05	:	Rs. 25.19 crore
2005-06		Rs. 21.00 crore

(c) and (d) The following projects had been prioritized for the year 2006-07 in consultation with the State Government of Rajasthan:—

Destination

1. Ajmer Sharif
2. Jaisalmer

Circuits

1. Eco-Tourism circuit
2. Floodlighting of monuments

Events/Festivals

1. Heritage Festival
2. Rajasthan Day Celebration
3. Pushkar Fair
4. Desert Festival

Project proposals that are complete in all respect are examined as per guidelines and approved on the-basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head. In the current financial year, Rs. 9.04 crore has been sanctioned for various tourism infrastructure projects in Rajasthan.

Proposal to boost tourism in Rajasthan

854. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign/domestic tourists who visited the country, State-wise during the last three years and whether it exhibits good potential for tourism in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of Government policies, if any, to boost rural, eco, wild-life, archaeological, forts, desert and religious tourism in Rajasthan;

(c) whether any proposal, to boost tourism have been sent by the State Government of Rajasthan to the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The total no. of foreign/domestic tourists who visited the country State-wise during the last three years is given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Government/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects including projects pertaining to rural, eco, wild-life, archaeological, forts, desert and religious tourism which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure